



Putting Together the Pieces

Fitting just-broken pieces together is hard enough, but imagine how difficult it is to do after thousands of years—and a few civilizations—have passed. Archaeologists faced with hundreds of thousands of pieces at a site have turned to mathematicians to help reassemble the fragments. The pieces are first digitally scanned; then software uses geometry, combinatorics, and statistics to reconstruct ancient artifacts, even when many pieces are missing.



The **Mathematical Moments** program promotes appreciation and understanding of the role mathematics plays in science, nature, technology, and human culture.

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